

## **Albuquerque District designated Lead District for the Regulatory Program in Colorado**

Washington (September 17, 2004) - The Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works announced today that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Albuquerque District has been designated as the Lead District for administration of the Regulatory Program in Colorado.

The Honorable John Paul Woodley, Jr., made the announcement at the statehouse in Denver during his trip to visit to the Corps' Regulatory Office there.

Eighteen states, including Colorado, currently have more than one Corps' district responsible for the Regulatory programs in those states. Colorado is the first of these states to have a Lead District officially designated.

Three Corps' districts - Albuquerque, Omaha and Sacramento - will continue to share responsibility for administering the Regulatory Program in Colorado. Albuquerque District, as the Lead District, will serve as the contact for state questions, interpret Regulatory Program Policy on a statewide basis, and will negotiate procedures and agreements to streamline Corps-Colorado regulatory activities for the public.

"The designation of Albuquerque District as the lead district for the Regulatory Program in Colorado is an important step in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' effort to realign Regulatory Program boundaries along state lines throughout the nation," said Woodley.

The Corps is currently working with each of the other 17 states served by multiple districts to designate a Lead District for the Regulatory Program by November 1, 2004.

Lead districts are responsible for:

- Primary point of contact for state questions and concerns
- Consistent statewide interpretation of Regulatory Program technical and policy guidance including mitigation guidelines
- Development and oversight of State Program General Permits
- Development and oversight of statewide regional general permits
- Development of procedures for joint activities
- Coordination and final development of state conditions for nationwide general permits
- Negotiation of contracts, memoranda of agreement, etc., in support of resource and information sharing.

"Designation of a Lead District for the Regulatory Program in each of the 18 states served by multiple Corps districts will put these states on par with the 32

states whose Regulatory Programs are currently administered by a single district." Woodley said.

"Lead District designation will strengthen Corps-state partnerships, enhance Regulatory Program efficiency and resolve program inconsistencies within states.

"The bottom line is these changes will make it easier for the great citizens of Colorado and all other states to understand who they should be working with whenever a regulatory issue arises."

For additional information about the United States Army Corps of Engineers, please visit <http://www.usace.army.mil>.